

INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: CAPACITY BUILDING IN ONE-STOP CENTERS FOR
CUSTOMERS WITH DISABILITIES

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide information, as mentioned in the attachment, on a staffing resource available to enhance employment development services in One-Stop Career Centers for individuals with disabilities. This resource, funded in conjunction with the Ticket To Work and Self-Sufficiency Program, is available through the [grantees](#) of the Social Security Administration's Benefits Planning and Assistance Outreach Program ([BPAO](#)). Benefits and Outreach staff will make themselves available in the One-Stop setting to provide workshops on work incentives, individual benefits counseling, and outreach to beneficiaries who receive Social Security Disability Insurance and/or Supplemental Security Income. Information about the Ticket to Work Program is provided in Information Bulletin [WIAB02-41](#), dated November 20, 2002.

If you have any questions about the BPAO program, please contact Bill Frazier at (619) 561-8761.

/S/ BOB HERMSMEIER
Chief
Workforce Investment Division

Attachment



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Chair

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California Workforce Investment Board

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Gray Davis
Governor

Andrew Baron
Executive
Director

TO: LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: CAPACITY BUILDING IN ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS FOR
CUSTOMERS WITH DISABILITIES

Comprehensive capacity building is underway at the federal, state and local levels to enhance employment development services in One-Stops for individuals with disabilities. At the State level significant policy design is in progress to address barriers that contribute to the high unemployment of individuals with disabilities. These include:

- Enactment of the 250% California Working Disabled Program that will broaden Medi-Cal buy-in to include eligible employed persons with disabilities.
- The California Medicaid Infrastructure Grant which has funding that can support health, work and disability outreach, training and research activities.
- The enactment of Assembly Bill 925 (Chapter 1088, Statutes of 2002) informally referred to as the Workforce Inclusion Act requires the state to provide better integrated employment and health care services for people with disabilities.

While work continues on policy to enrich workforce delivery of services to working individuals with disabilities we want to make you aware of an immediately available resource, the Benefits Planning and Assistance Outreach Program. There are an estimated 2.5 million disabled people in California of working age. Many individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are afraid to work because they lack a clear understanding of how working will affect their cash or medical benefits. These benefits are often essential lifelines to health care, durable medical equipment, and/or personal assistance services which individuals need for work as well as independent living.

As the result of a five-year grant from the Social Security Administration called Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach (BPAO), thirteen community-based organizations in California received funds to provide accurate information about Social Security work incentives to individuals with disabilities who receive SSI and/or SSDI. These organizations are responsible for informing SSI and SSDI beneficiaries of the advantages of using work incentives and providing them with benefits management advice when they obtain employment.

The BPAO grantees wish to explore offering services in One-Stop Centers where they may reach a larger number of SSI/SSDI beneficiaries. Among the services the Benefits and Outreach staff can provide within the One-Stop setting are workshops on work incentives as well as individual benefits counseling. The information Benefits and Outreach staff provide to customers with disabilities will be valuable to those who are interested in working but afraid of jeopardizing their eligibility for benefits.

The Benefits and Outreach staff will also be able to provide information about the soon to be implemented Ticket to Work Program, another program mandated by the Ticket To Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. Additional information about Ticket to Work is provided in WIAB02-41 dated November 20, 2002. SSI/SSDI beneficiaries will receive a ticket they can use to obtain assessment, training, job preparation, and placement services at the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) or any other employment service provider participating in the Ticket to Work Program as an Employment Network.

Benefits and Outreach staff will be contacting you in the near future to further discuss this wonderful opportunity for individuals who are beneficiaries of SSI and/or SSDI. The DOR and the CalWIB strongly encourage you to partner with us and incorporate the Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach Program into the menu of service activities available in the local One-Stops.

Thank you for your consideration of this important program effort.

/S/ ANDREW R. BARON
Executive Director
California Workforce
Investment Board

/S/ CATHERINE CAMPISI, Ph.D.
Director
Department of Rehabilitation and
Chair of the California Workforce
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cc: BPAO Grantees
Department of Rehabilitation District Administrators